

HISPANIC/LATINO ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Salt Lake Center for Science Education
1400 West Goodwin Ave
Wednesday, September 10, 2008.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
DRAFT
MINUTES

Meeting Facilitator: Carlos Linares
Minutes: Luis Garza

Chairman
Administrative Assistant

PRESENT:

Council Members: Rhosbita Barker, Rosalba Domínguez, Sylvia García Rickard, Carlos Linares, Joe Juan Mena, Araueni Olivares, Natalia Solache, Sally E. Valdez.

OEA Staff: Silvia Thomas, Luis Garza.

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Nolberto Castro, Ingrid Quiroz, Matilde Teixeira Wosnjuk, Juan Carlos Vazquez.

GUESTS: George Angerbauer, Diane Lovell.

I. Welcome:

- Carlos Linares called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. by welcoming everyone in attendance.

II. Introductions / Invited Guests

- Everyone introduced him/herself and shared a little about their background with the rest of the group.
- Our three guests were introduced to the Council.
- Linda Oda – Asian Affairs Director, Office of Ethnic Affairs: Education Conference Committee Chair.
 - Linda provided some background about the upcoming Education Conference. The conference will be held on November 8, 2008 at West High School.
 - The theme is: *It Takes a Village: A Network of Support – Empowering Parents in the Education of their Children*
 - Objective: How to successfully educate ethnic minority students.
 - Audience: parents, students, educators and community members.
 - The conference will be free.
 - It is sponsored by the Utah Office of Ethnic Affairs, The Utah State Office of Education, and Utah School Districts. However, the Conference is operating on a very low budget.

Discussion:

The Council suggested offering scholarships at the conference, they also suggested having booths representing different colleges and universities. Also to add “free lunch” to the flyer. The Council asked

Linda if she could email the revised “Save the Date” to the Council so they can distribute it to their contacts.

- Maïke Jones – Office of the Governor, Boards and Commissions.
 - Luis Garza introduced Maïke Jones to the Council.
 - Maïke informed the Council about her duties and shared some of her background.
 - Maïke mentioned that Governor Huntsman has a vision that State Boards and Commissions should reflect the change in the population in Utah.
 - She asked the Council to help her office diversify State Boards and Commissions.
 - Ms. Jones requested the Council to send a list of their colleagues/associates that they recommend to Boards and Commissions.

Discussion:

Sally Valdez asked if Maïke had a list of all open positions available on State Boards and Commissions. Maïke mentioned that anyone can go online and review those positions. However, people have to go to each individual board for there is not a list of available positions. Maïke promised she will send a list of all available positions to the whole Council.

- Carlos mentioned the Council is currently compiling a database of Hispanic/Latino professionals that could be considered to the different open positions.
- Maïke asked that they can just provide the name, country of origin, profession, education, experience, etc. Maïke mentioned that candidates do not have to be professionals.
- They need people with the time commitment and who are willing to serve their community.

Discussion:

Manuel Romero suggested that the Governor should mandate the Councils to make this “board diversification” a priority. Manuel mentioned that there should be some accountability in this process in order to be effectively implemented.

- Manuel Romero – Department of Human Services
 - Manuel provided an overview of the Department of Human Services (DHS).
 - There are around 5,000 employees Statewide under the DHS.
 - Because of the changing demographics, case workers have found a need to have resources that are specifically targeted to certain minority groups.
 - The DHS has created a website that will serve as a resource for case workers dealing with the Hispanic/Latino population in Utah.
 - This website will contain information that will provide a clearer understanding of the Hispanic/Latino people, culture, and families.
 - There will be a community presentation of this website on September 21st.

- There will also be three cross-cultural trainings Statewide.
- Manuel requested the Council to volunteer to be a presenter or to recommend someone who would be a good fit to facilitate a panel.
- Some of the topics to be addressed in these panels and the website include:
 - Language
 - Parenting
 - Domestic Violence
 - Disabilities
 - Gangs

III. Approval of Minutes:

- Sylvia García Rickard made a motion to approve the July 9 Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council Meeting Minutes. Juan Carlos seconded the motion. None opposed, motion carried.

IV. Director's Report

- Silvia Thomas was unable to attend the meeting. Luis Garza briefly presented Silvia's report.
 - Silvia has been arranging meetings with executive directors and cabinet members of various state agencies to build a stronger relationship with each department and create partnerships.
 - The Council's name badges have been ordered and will be ready by next week.

V. Committee Action Items

- Website State Agencies Assignments and Reports
 - Carlos asked the Council if anyone completed the assignment from last meeting. No one had done so. There was no report given.
 - Carlos reminded the Council that at the bottom of every agenda there is a place titled "Agenda / Action Items" where they can write the projects they are assigned each month. This will help everyone to remember their assignments.
 - He encourage each member to visit the website and view the various state agencies and community-based organizations.
- Education Committee Report - Joe Mena
 - Joe repeated the responsibilities of the Education Committee which are:
 - Educate the public about the Council and what resources are available for them.
 - Create informative videos
 - Education conference for parents
 - History of Latinos in Utah.
 - Work with School Programs involved in health, education and employment awareness.
 - Matilde Teixeira Wosnjuk and Juan Carlos Vazquez will join the Education Conference Committee. Joe Mena's College would also like to participate. It was suggested that the Council should get more involved in the Conference.

- Follow-up Meeting with the Governor
 - The Council will now meet with the Governor on a quarterly basis. This will maintain a continuous dialogue between the Governor and the Council.
 - Governor Huntsman asked for a list of people the Council recommends to the various positions available in the State's boards and commissions.
 - The Council will provide names of professionals.
 - Joe recommended looking into the Boards and Commissions' website to identify open positions and familiarize ourselves with the different boards.
 - Governor Huntsman recommended the Council to have a cultural celebration at the Governor's mansion. Joe recommended following up on this. The Council will decide when the party will be.

Discussion:

Sylvia Rickard suggested having a holiday party. Sally recommended starting a committee that will be in charge of this celebration.

- Law enforcement discrimination incidents
 - Carlos suggested that the Council should be sensitive about collecting information.
 - Regarding this issue, the Council should be professional, objective, cautious, and should not address problems reactively but proactively.
 - Joe mentioned that the Council should be selective about the issues presented.

VI. New Business

- Council Committee Search
 - There are currently three openings for the Advisory Council. Send resume of interested parties to Silvia Thomas.
- Upcoming Events
 - Council members informed the group of upcoming events in which they might be involved.
 - August 30th - Utah Brazilian Festival from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Free admission.
 - September 13th - Fiesta Mexicana. Free all day event.
 - October 15th – Charles Bowden: Presentation on Immigration at Westminster College. 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
 - October 23rd – Multi Ethnic Business Conference
- Other New Business
 - Maik Jones offered the Utah Capitol as a location for future HLAC meetings.
 - Juan Carlos mentioned that both the President of Utah State University and the Dean of the College of Education will be present at the October HLAC meeting.

VII. Roundtable Discussion / Closing Remarks

- Sylvia Rickard mentioned that she met with Silvia Thomas and Dr. Victor Cruz. Dr. Cruz is a colorectal surgeon willing to do colon exams for the poor. The cost of this exam is usually \$2,000 but he is going to do it for \$400. Dr. Cruz will donate his services; he just needs to find a clinic or hospital that could donate the place.

VIII. Adjourn: Sylvia Rickard made a motion to adjourn. Matilde seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.